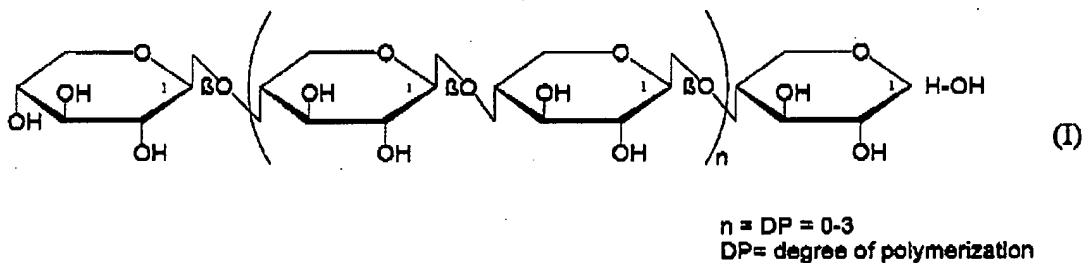


Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Previously Presented) A beverage which comprises at least one xylooligosaccharide and at least one intense sweetener, wherein the entirety of said at least one xylooligosaccharide is consists of a compound of the formula (I)



said beverage comprising from 0.01 to 2 % by weight, based on the beverage, of said xylooligosaccharide, said beverage exhibiting a more harmonious flavor in comparison to said beverage without said xylooligosaccharide.

2. (Canceled)

3. (Original) The beverage as claimed in claim 1, wherein the xylooligosaccharide has a

degree of polymerization of DP =1 to 10.

4. (Previously Presented) The beverage as claimed in claim 1, wherein the beverage comprises 0.01 to 0.9 % by weight, based on the beverage, of xylooligosaccharide.

5. (Original) The beverage as claimed in claim 1, wherein the intense sweetener is selected from the group consisting of: acesulfame, alitame, aspartame, cyclamate, neohesperidin dihydrochalcone, neotame, saccharin, sucralose, thaumatin, water-soluble sodium salts, potassium salts, calcium salts of these intense sweeteners and mixtures of two or more members of this group.

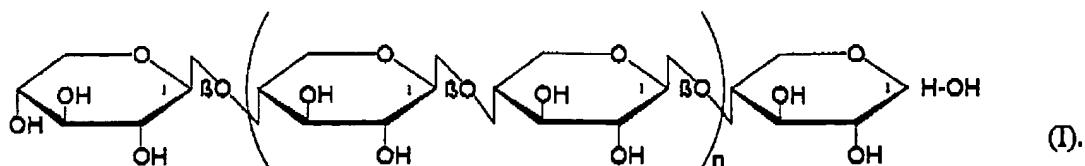
6. (Original) The beverage as claimed in claim 1, based on water, milk or fermented milk, flavorings, essences, extracts of fruits or fruit juices, or extracts of malt or other carbohydrate-containing raw materials.

7. (Original) The beverage as claimed in claim 1, wherein it also comprises sugar (sucrose), glucose and/or fructose in solid or syrup form.

8. (Previously Presented) The beverage as claimed in claim 5, wherein the intense sweetener is a mixture of potassium salt of acesulfame and aspartame.

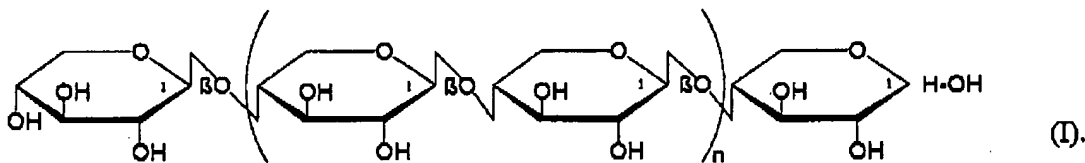
9. (Original) The beverage as claimed in claim 1, wherein it contains carbon dioxide.

10. (Previously Presented) A process for producing a beverage as claimed in claim 1, which comprises adding to a beverage at least one xylooligosaccharide and at least one intense sweetener, wherein said at least one xylooligosaccharide is a compound of the formula (I)



$n = DP = 0-3$
DP = degree of polymerization

11. (Previously Presented) A method for producing beverages by using xylooligosaccharides and at least one intense sweetener, wherein said xylooligosaccharides are compounds of the formula (I)



$n = DP = 0-3$
DP = degree of polymerization

12. (Canceled)